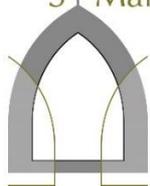


Friends of
St Mary's



The Friends Quarterly



Welcome to the Friends Newsletter.

This view is of the Banquet held in the St Mary's Church on Saturday 20th October and was yet again an outstanding success with good food, wine and company ending in an excellent rendition of the Hornblower and the National Anthem – more below

November 2018

Issue 28

Friends Update & News

This will be the last Quarterly for this year. The next one will, we hope, be distributed in February or early March 2019 and for this reason we have included a letter in this issue to remind you that the end of Jan 2019 is the time that annual membership donations need to be renewed. Please could you read it as you may want to take the opportunity to review your donation with next Jan in mind? We will be writing to you again in January with more details about the renewal process.

It's a good time of the year to remind ourselves of the Friends events that we and others have enjoyed this year – concert performances by Dr Joseph Nolan and The Spectrum Choral Academy; St Mary's Quiz night; Heritage Open Days (see below); and hospitality at the Strawberry Cream Tea and May Day stall. In total these events raised just over £1521. With the amount raised from membership donations, Friends has contributed almost £4,000 to support the life, work and fabric of St Mary's. **Thank you all very much.** This is an amazing contribution and your generous support is valued and very encouraging. And of course, new members are always welcome and can join at any time. Membership forms are available in church, from contacting friends@chalgrovechurch.org, or telephoning 01865 400402.

You will see in the Future Events section of the newsletter that the Friends are presenting their last concert of the year. The Kingston Chamber Orchestra will be performing in church on Sunday Dec 9th at 3pm. Do read the details and put the date in your diaries. Over the years we have enjoyed several concerts given by this orchestra. The December concert will include music by Bach, Mozart and Gershwin, and will finish with a Christmas Medley arranged by the conductor and director, Andy Meyers.

And, please, if you plan to come by car, could you consider giving a lift to someone you know who may enjoy the event but who may need help with transport? Thank you.

Heritage Open Days

On the afternoons of Sept 8th and 9th members of Friends welcomed many visitors to St Mary's to view some exciting new resources for enhancing the appreciation of St Mary's heritage features. You may have seen the article about this written by Judith Bennett in the October Link magazine.

During the afternoon we showed an on-screen display of the medieval wallpaintings. This newly developed resource displays the paintings as we see them now, alongside the images as imagined in their original glory and vibrant colour. It is fascinating and very informative.

We were also demonstrating the resources that are being developed for sight-impaired visitors to enjoy St Mary's lovely heritage features. This is an ongoing project and we hope that some of the money raised by Friends will contribute to the cost of completing such a worthwhile service.

We are grateful to St Mary's church guides who volunteered their time to help show visitors round the church and explain its history and heritage features. And thank you to all the Friends who helped with welcoming, making and serving the refreshments, and tidying up.

It was an enjoyable occasion and clearly appreciated by those who visited. As most of the visitors were not "locals" it also proved to be a good opportunity to spread the word about St Mary's heritage beyond Chalgrove.

Lynn Baker

PAST EVENTS

Ride & Stride 2018

13 cyclists visited the church during the annual Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust StRide on 8 September. Congratulations to the two Cyclists who represented St Mary's, Ray Freeman and Alan Thompson who visited 46 churches between them, raising a total of £630, half of which will be returned to St Mary's by the OHCT. We are also very grateful to all the welcomers who sat patiently in church to sign in StRiders. Ray dedicated his Ride to the memory of his mother Lilian Freeman, a regular worshipper at St Mary's Wednesday morning communion service, who died on 27th August.

Carole Heath-Whyte

St Mary's Annual Church Banquet:

Saturday 20th of October was a date we had been anticipating with confident high hopes as it was the annual St Mary's church banquet. On arrival we were greeted by a number of cheerful helpers dispensing drinks and a very warm welcome to everyone. There was a period when we mingled in the warm, cheerfully decorated Church, meeting up with old and very new friends with great camaraderie and much happy chatting. The organisation was superb. Upon the given signal we found our seasonally decorated table and settled down with our fellow diners, again with much happy chatting.

The meal was, as expected with Jeanette in charge, superb with wonderful flavours and very slick presentation from Jeanette's 'army of elves'. How it always arrives at every table beautifully presented, so tasty, piping hot and so apparently effortlessly is a complete mystery. We were also entertained by the 'man in the three cornered hat!! and all participated in a Sainly Quiz and rousing communal singing. Someone whose birthday happened to fall on that day was well surprised.

All in all it was a wonderful evening of great food, great organisation and great fellowship with the upside of raising a large sum for St Mary's.

Very many thanks to everyone responsible for giving us yet another extremely enjoyable evening which more than met our expectations.

Paul and Sue Latham

Time for Adam to move on...

The Rev Adam Stevenson came to the Oxford Methodist Circuit as a probationer several years ago. He has always had an interest in rural ministry; he was ordained, and over his time with us developed his skills and maturity as a minister.

Methodist ministers move much more frequently than Anglican parish priests, in a tradition established by John Wesley, and Adam had planned to go forward for "stationing" (ie being placed in the next job) in 2019. However there are currently several "must fill" posts urgently in need of ministers, and one evening in April Adam had a phone call asking him to consider moving onwards a year early. The role identified as being a good match for Adam's experience and interests is in Norfolk, where there had been a

gap of a couple of years with no functioning ministers - there should have been two. He initially agreed to visit, and then after much thought and prayer decided that moving there was the next stage in his calling. Initially he will look after 5 churches, and with time will become Superintendent of the 11 churches of the Fens Circuit.

Adam wrote to his Oxfordshire churches: "Wesley said of his preachers not to go where they are needed, but to where they are needed most. I felt the Spirit at work at each stage of the process and a sense that this is where God is calling me to minister now."

Adam built different relationships with his three rural churches here in Oxfordshire but the whole Circuit came together to say goodbye at his farewell service held in Watlington Chapel on Sunday 12th August. The service was led by Rev Helen Cameron, Chair of the Northampton District (a Methodist District is roughly similar to an Anglican Diocese). She gave a very encouraging address and several people who had helped support Adam during his time here did the readings. At the end of the service we prayed for God's blessing on Adam as he moves forward in his ministry, and for his new churches. It was particularly nice to see so many church folk from St Mary's in Chalgrove attend in order to bid him farewell.

Louise Bates

CONGRATULATIONS and CELEBRATIONS

Fellowship of St Birinus



Congratulations! To Andrew Davis who was nominated for this honour by the PCC, was accepted, and subsequently presented with his certificate by the Bishop of Dorchester at a moving service in Dorchester Abbey in the afternoon of Sunday 16th September. The photo shows Andrew, fifth from right, with Bishop Colin and other recipients of the

honour. Andrew tells us that he and his wife Teresa had a lovely afternoon at the presentation and that "...it was very humbling to be amongst so many years of service..."

Bob Heath-Whyte

A WEDDING AT ST MARY'S



On a beautiful day on the 19th October, Amy Rogers married Thomas Jameson, a day she had been dreaming of, as many girls do, for many years. The family consider themselves lucky to be part of Chalgrove and have many ties back to the church. Although now resident in Soham, Cambridgeshire, Amy grew up amongst many of the people within the Church family and still has close ties to many of them. As a Scout, Amy was one of Denise Shortman's Scouts & Explorers, and is proud that she is the first of Ian & Denise's Scouts to be married. The fact that it could be in Chalgrove, with Denise singing was a considerable bonus. Paul, Amy's proud father, is a founding member of Short Drag Roger, the shanty crew, who have huge ties to the church. It was through this connection and because Ian had retired, that Paul asked the Reverend Lee Gabel, a family friend, to come and perform the wedding service. Many of the choir also have strong ties with the

Rogers family, Peter, Patricia, Denise, Steve, Ellen – all of whom have been part of the family over the years. With these ties, it made the wedding a truly beautiful and blessed day. All the family would like to take this time to compliment everyone in the church for such a fantastic day, the bells, the service, the choir and the parish committee. In due course there will be some photos available of the service itself available for those that wish to see them.

Paul Rogers

WE REMEMBER.....

Iris Irene Watts (1925-2018)

Iris, a Friend of St Mary's since the beginning, sadly died on 6th October aged 93. Iris's life was characterised by a love of reading (despite her father burning her books when she was young to ensure she worked for the family and didn't waste time on education), and by a true altruism. In war and peace Iris set out to help others. She was a kind, loving and generous person and a special lady, who is sorely missed by her friends, not least those at Age Concern.

Judith Bennett

Memorial Service for Paul Jacques (1937-2018)

The church was packed on the afternoon of Saturday 13 October for the memorial service for Paul who sadly died on 12 August. The service was conducted by Revd Canon Ian Cohen and started with two regimental marches played by Victoria Jacques on her flute, The Farmer's Boy for the Wiltshire Regiment and D'Ye Ken John Peel for the Royal Gloucester Hussars, Paul having served in both these regiments.

Adrian Grazebrook reflected on Paul's life as a military man and Mike Stanley MBE on Paul's involvement with the scouting world.

These reflections and Ian Cohen's address served to remind the congregation of Paul's generosity and total commitment to everything in which he was involved. This was a truly fitting memorial service for a kind and loving man who will be greatly missed but remembered with fondness. The service ended with a moving rendering of The Royal Marines Sunset played by Sarah Poore on her bugle.

Margaret Molloy

Paul Jacques' Role as Church Trustee and Fundraiser



For 21 years, Paul was a trustee of the Chalgrove Church Estate. This Trust, separate from the church finances, manages the properties it owns, which are the Red Lion and the three Church Cottages in Church Lane. Paul was key in transforming the Trust from a charity that 'lived from hand to mouth' to one which could be strategic for the Church's and

village's future. The Trust is required to use its funds for securing its future so that the maintenance of the services of the Church, and its fabric, can be protected. Investments and income were marshalled for these 'charitable objects' and this involved the rebuilding of the Red Lion and the refurbishment, twice over, of the cottages. He always valued the fact that supporting the Church and the village was never separated. Very much as a result of his involvement, the Trust has had a worthy recent history, and is now established in good health for the future.

In addition, Paul was a wise advisor on fundraising. The major Conservation and Refurbishment Project for the church, finally completed in 2016, required funds of over £1m. More than half of this was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The process of applying through the three different stages was long and complex. Paul was happy to attend and host a weekly meeting where we discussed the details of the application. His knowledge of the significant heritage of our church was key to our successful bid for the money. The photo shows Paul (cup in hand!) and Rachel his wife (pen in hand!) at an early meeting with the HLF team.

Paul also hosted a larger meeting to discuss applications to many other sources of funds, such as charitable trusts and foundations. Again he contributed significantly to the success of the many applications that were made, which enabled the project to be completed. There was always a warm and friendly welcome from Paul at all these meetings.

Charles Baker, Sarah Brown

SPECIAL INTEREST

Friend and fellow member of St Mary's, Dr Sam Richards reflects on her first year in her new job.

All Saints Day seemed an auspicious day on which to be starting my new job as Head of Children's and Youth Work for the United Reformed Church. One year on it is good to reflect on my experience so far.

I arrived knowing very little about the URC, despite having worked for Ecumenical charities for over 30 years. I was made extremely welcome both at Church House in London (my office base) and by the team of Children's and Youth Development Officers (CYDOs) from the 13 synods in England, Scotland and Wales that make up the denomination. I have been on a steep learning curve about all things URC and have come to appreciate the commitment to being an inclusive, intercultural and intergenerational church.

I generally describe my role as 'chief cheerleader for children and young people'. I spend some of my time in meetings where decisions about church life are being considered by a group of adults, reminding everyone that the church also includes children and young people and therefore they need to be considered. I also spend my time collecting stories from local churches of ways in which they are engaging with children and young people. It is my delight to share these stories as widely as possible to raise the profile of children and young people within the church. I hope that I am helping the church to celebrate the gift of children and young people, and to be encouraged by these signs of life.

It is my privilege to support the URC Youth Executive – a committee of youth reps from the synods led by their elected Youth Moderator. They plan and run an annual Youth Assembly for all young people aged 14-25 – a lively weekend in January! They conduct business using consensus decision making – an amazing approach to ensuring all views are heard and considered, and decisions are made when all are content that the mind of the whole group, guided by the Spirit, has been discerned. The resolutions passed each January set the agenda for the work of the Youth Exec for the year and may lead to them taking issues to be considered by the whole church General Assembly (which also employs a consensus approach).

My main purpose is to support the Children's and Youth Work Committee in enabling the URC to engage with children and young people. This month I will present my report to the church council. In it I set out my main priorities for the next five years as we seek to enable children and young people to play their part in the mission of God– if approved, I am going to be rather busy!

A key area identified is those URC churches that see themselves as having 'no children and young people' and to help them identify the many ways they are and could be engaging with them. On some Sundays St Mary's can seem like a church with no children and young people – yet it is a good landlord to many groups engaging with youngsters and offers fantastic opportunities to them at a time when many community facilities are closing. It encourages church members in their relationships with children and young people through the uniformed organisations, village Youth Club, and Tots services; it connects very positively with the village school; and welcomes families to appropriate services during the week and at key festivals. In all these ways, St Mary's can build on their relationships with young people, offering and sharing the resources of the faith community. As we draw up the Parish profile and pray for our new vicar, I hope we are able to reflect this and involve children and young people in the process. We must always remember it is their church too.

My new job means I am away with work many weekends, and less present than ever at St Mary's, but still value the welcome of the worshipping community there. I also use St Mary's as an example of how a historic church can prioritise the needs of the community today over being a museum to the past – so important when seeking to engage with children and young people.

“Tradition is not worshipping the ashes – but tending the flame” (Mahler)

Dr Sam Richards

Future Events 2018/2019

December 1st St Nick's Fayre in the village hall, from 11am-3pm. Help is always welcome on the church stalls. Please contact Jeanette Barrington (890607) or Tracy Leiper (40015)

December 9th at 3pm The Friends of St Mary's look forward to welcoming everyone to a Concert by the Kingston Chamber Orchestra. Teas will be served after the concert. Admission is by a suggested donation of £7 and proceeds will support the life, work and heritage of St Mary's. The programme will include works by Bach, Mozart, and Gershwin as well as a Christmas Medley arranged by Andy Meyers, KCO's conductor and director. Do come – it promises to be a lovely afternoon of music and friendship.

December 23rd Sunday at 9.30am Sunday morning Prayer.

December 24th Monday Christmas Eve at 4.30pm Carol Service with the blessing of the Crib.

At 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity

December 25th Christmas Day at 09.30am Parish Communion

NEW YEAR 2019

March 2nd Church Quiz Night at the Parish Hall 7 for 7.30pm. Supported by the Friends of St Mary's. Further details will appear in Link magazine. Table bookings can be made through Judith Bennett by phone, email, or text: judith.bennetts@outlook.com 01865 890958 or 07811 656597 .

Editorial Policy We welcome your contributions (up to a maximum of 500 words) to the newsletter but we reserve the right to edit them. We should also point out that the views expressed in 'The Friends' quarterly are not necessarily those of the editorial team or the PCC of St Mary's Church.

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